

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A distributed IP library management system for supporting users on a plurality of local area networks coupled through a wide area network, comprising:

a master IP database for storing virtual component data;

a master IP database server on a first local area network coupled to the master IP database;

an IP catalog database for storing attributes pertaining to the virtual component data;

an IP catalog database server on the first local area network coupled to the IP catalog database;

~~an IP registration system for testing the quality of and controlling the of registration of new or modified virtual component data;~~

an IP data management system for controlling: a) whether a user may access the master IP database and the IP catalog database, b) setup and maintenance of the master IP database and c) updating the master IP database upon registration of virtual component data;

an IP selection system for browsing the IP catalog database with a query engine and accessing selected virtual component data from the master IP database

an IP catalog management system for setting up the IP catalog database and for updating the IP catalog database; and

an IP modification management system for managing the reporting and tracking of errors detected in the virtual component data,

wherein user terminals on a given local area network couple to the IP library management system through a user interface server on the given local area network.

2. (Original) The IP library management system of claim 1, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

3. (Original) The IP library management system of claim 2, wherein the user interface server in any given local area network other than the first local area network couples to

a local database server on the given local area network, the local database server coupled to a cached local IP database, and wherein the user interface server on the first local area network couples to the master database server.

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended) The IP library management system of claim 43, wherein the IP catalog database is a relational database and the query engine uses SQL commands.

6. (Currently amended) The IP management system of claim 45, wherein the IP master database and the IP catalog database are each stored in a Redundant Array of Independent Disks and the IP catalog database server is a cluster server.